

Voter Registration Workshop

June 5, 2018

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Knoxville & Knox County

League of Women Voters Mission

As a nonpartisan organization, LWV

- Encourages informed and active participation in government
- Works to increase understanding of major public policy issues
- Influences public policy through education and advocacy

LWV Voter Services Mission

- **Protect all citizens' right to vote**
- **Encourage all citizens to vote**
 - ✓ Work to register ALL eligible voters (**Do not register anyone within 30 days of an election. Applications are not processed during this time.**)
 - ✓ Provide **objective, nonpartisan information** about voting and upcoming elections
Who? Where? When?
- **Further fair elections**
 - ✓ Develop Voter Guides for each election
 - ✓ Organize Candidate Forums and Meet & Greet Events

LWVKKC Voter Kits

- ✓ Contain helpful handouts for the public
- ✓ Provide supplies & information to help you answer questions
- ✓ Must be checked out and returned promptly!
- ✓ Can be used by all volunteers when a League member is present

Check out a Voter Kit

Contact Linda Maccabe

llmac@mac.com

(505) 238-1462



Knoxville & Knox County



Who Is Eligible to Vote in Knox County?

- **You are eligible to Vote in Knox County if you**
 - ✓ are a U.S. citizen
 - ✓ **have a legal/permanent address in Knox County**
 - ✓ will be 18 years of age or older on or before the next election date)
 - ✓ have NOT been convicted of a felony (or have had your voting rights restored)
 - ✓ postmarked the registration form—or submitted online—at least thirty (30) days before the first election in which will vote

Guidelines for Determining Residency

- **In Tennessee, for purposes of voting, people can declare residency at any time** (Universities and other agencies/institutions may have different requirements. Example: Universities may require several years' residency before can claim in-state tuition)
- Some considerations to determine residency:
 - ✓ Are you considered a resident in some other state?
(Only 1 legal/permanent residence allowed.)
 - ✓ Do you intend to live here, and if absent for a period, do you intend to return?
 - ✓ Is your personal property registered here (such as your car)?
 - ✓ Do you have local licenses, like a TN driver's license?
 - ✓ Are you living with a spouse or family member that is a TN resident? More info : <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/guidelines-determining-residency>
 - ✓ Do you want to be able to vote in Knox County?

Misconceptions about Residency for Students

- **Will residency for voting purposes affect financial aid?**
 - ✓ Does NOT affect federal financial aid, Pell Grants, Perkins and Stafford Loans, etc.
 - ✓ Does NOT affect consideration for being your parents dependent for FAFSA.
- **What about your driver's license or registration?**
 - ✓ It may not be *required* that you change your driver's license, but your TN driver's license can be key when proving you are a resident of TN. It's also meets the requirement for a TN State issued photo ID.
- **Your Parents' taxes?**
 - ✓ Students are sometimes told that registering to vote will make it impossible for their parents to claim them as a dependent. **This is NOT true.**

Restoration of Voting Rights if Convicted of a Felon

Anyone convicted of a felon after May 18, 1981, can seek to get their voting rights restored.

- ✓ A form must be completed **by an agent**, such as a probation/parole officer or criminal court clerk, who has the authority to provide the required information regarding the individual's conviction, final release date, and information regarding restitution or court cost.
- ✓ **Agent contact information as of May, 2018: Jim Kriplean 865-582-2048**
- ✓ Completed form(s) must be submitted to the election commission office in the county in which the individual resides.

More information: <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/restoration-voting-rights>

The Registration Process: Paper Form

- **Same form for all TN counties**
 - ✓ Knox County Election Commission will forward paper forms to the appropriate county.
 - ✓ Registrants can mail forms themselves.
- **Forms available:**
 - ✓ Download from <http://sos-tn-gov-files.s3.amazonaws.com/forms/ss-3010.pdf>
 - ✓ Obtain at election commission office or from a LWVKKC Voter Kit
- **Deadline to submit:** 30 days prior to election (postmarked or delivered)
- **LWVKKC Volunteers:**
 - ✓ **Law requires volunteers to submit applications in a timely manner!**
 - ✓ **ALWAYS SUBMIT 30+ DAYS BEFORE ELECTION & and within 2 business days of a VR drive!**
 - ✓ Check applications for accuracy (A voter is NOT registered until errorless or corrected form submitted!)
 - ✓ Follow-up on registrants behalf to ensure they receive voter card and/or to help solve problems

The Application Form must be error free!

1 Are you a citizen of the United States? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before Election Day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answered "No" in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.					FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION USE ONLY Mail _____ Reg # _____ Approved _____ Effective Date _____ P/A _____ District _____ Precinct _____ Ward _____							
2 LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME		SUFFIX	3 SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		4 RACE (OPTIONAL)			
5 ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (DO NOT GIVE A P.O. BOX)				APT. #	CITY		COUNTY		STATE		ZIP CODE	
6 ADDRESS WHERE YOU GET YOUR MAIL (IF DIFFERENT THAN ABOVE)							7 E-MAIL (OPTIONAL)					
8 DATE OF BIRTH		CITY AND STATE OF BIRTH			SOCIAL SECURITY #		<small>(required under T.C.A. § 2-2-116 for purposes of identification and to avoid duplicate registration)</small>		9 PHONE #			
10 NAME AND ADDRESS ON LAST VOTER REGISTRATION												
NAME				ADDRESS								
CITY				COUNTY				STATE		ZIP		
11 VOTER DECLARATION: I, being duly sworn on oath (or affirmation) declare that the above address is my legal residence and that I plan to remain at such residence for an undetermined period of time and say that to the best of my knowledge and belief all of the statements made by me are true.						12 WARNING: Giving false information to register to vote or attempting to register when not qualified is a felony punishable by not less than two (2) years nor more than twelve (12) years imprisonment or a fine of \$5,000 or both.						
1. Are you a resident of the State of Tennessee?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Have you ever been convicted of a crime which is a felony in this state, by a court in this state, a court in another state, or a federal court?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	X _____ Signature (or mark) of Applicant				Date _____
<i>applicant is unable to sign, provide signature of person who signed for applicant.</i>								_____ Signature of Person Assisting				
_____ Address												

ss-3010 (Rev. 10/15)

If a DEFICIENT Application

Election commission sends letter indicating specific problems and how to correct

- ✓ Missing or incomplete name and/or name and address of person assisting, date and place of birth, signature, gender
- ✓ Missing or invalid social security number
- ✓ Providing a P.O. Box or business address as legal address
- ✓ Not answering questions re citizenship, Tennessee residence, felony conviction, 18 years old on/before next election
- ✓ Not completing form in ink

Correcting Errors

Correcting errors **BEFORE** the application is submitted

- ✓ Volunteers check for common mistakes and determine whether you can read it (if you can't, the Election Commission staff will likely not be able to either)
- ✓ Applicant corrects answers and initials changes
- ✓ Volunteer corrects and person initials changes
- ✓ Volunteers rewrite forms (**must** sign as assistant and provide address)

Correcting errors after receive notice of deficient application

- ✓ Person submits a new, accurate application
- ✓ Person must submit revised information before election
in person: 5+ days before election by mail: 30+ days before election

If a REJECTED Application

Election commission sends letter indicating problems & how to appeal

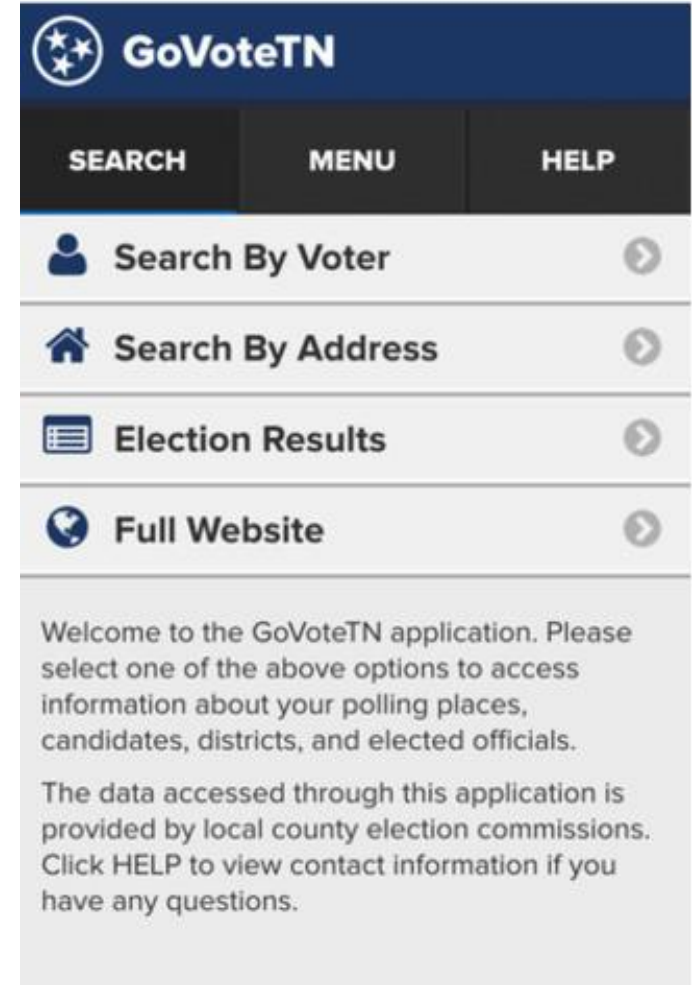
- ✓ Answered “yes” to having committed a felony between January 15, 1973 and May 17, 1981 and voting rights not restored
- ✓ Documentation not available regarding conviction date between January 15, 1973 and May 17, 1981
- ✓ Answered “no” to citizenship and 18 years of age question
- ✓ Not a resident of this county (application will be forwarded to correct county)
- ✓ Non-resident property owner in City of Knoxville with voting rights but no documentation of ownership or already 2 individuals registered to vote on the property

Voter Kits contain copies of appeal application



The Registration Process: Online

- Free app: GoVoteTN
- Only citizens with a valid TN Driver's license can register online
- (Driver's license NOT required on paper form)
- Deadline to submit: 30+ days prior to election



The Voter Registration Card

Voters should receive a Voter Registration Card about 3 weeks after the application is received.

Knox County Election Commission
Date Registered 11/27/1996
Date of Birth 03/07/1943
Precinct 71
Voting Location ROCKY HILL SCHOOL
City County School State State U.S.
District District District House Senate Congress
04 04 14 06 02
www.knoxcounty.org/election

Change of Address/Name

Regardless of former address

- ✓ Submit a registration application (If moved to a new county or State, the person **must** complete a new registration application)

If new address is in the same county as the old address:

- ✓ During Early Voting, change at any polling place
- ✓ On Election Day, change at polling place for NEW address
- ✓ Online, change at [GoVoteTN.com](https://www.GoVoteTN.com) (or app)

The Voting Process

- **Voting Early—Encourage Voters to Take Advantage!**
 - ✓ **When** – The Election Commission sets the dates, times, and locations for early voting prior to each election—typically begins twenty (20) days before and ends five (5) days before Election Day.
 - ✓ **Where** – A registered voter may vote at ANY early voting polling place **in the county for which they are registered**. Note: times and days are not the same at all Early Voting locations
 - ✓ **Requirement:** Voter must present an acceptable photo ID (or meet a legal exception)
- **Voting on Election Day**
 - ✓ **Where:** Voters must vote at assigned voting precinct noted on registration card
 - ✓ **Requirement:** Voters must present an acceptable photo ID

Informed Voting

Provide NONPARTISAN information

- ✓ Handouts listing candidates and issues that will be on the ballot
- ✓ Explanation about how primary elections differ from general elections
- ✓ Voter Guides—providing candidates' responses to a LWV set of questions—Available at lwvknoxville.org , on Vote411, or in the News Sentinel just before Early Voting
- ✓ Handouts about nonpartisan Forums and Meet & Greet candidate events

Valid Picture ID Requirement

- **Voters must present an acceptable ID with name & photo at the voting poll**
- **Acceptable IDs—even if expired**
 - ✓ Tennessee driver license with photo
 - ✓ United States Passport
 - ✓ Photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (free, but must travel to designated facility—Knox County requires travel to Strawberry Plains driver service center)
 - ✓ Photo ID issued by the federal government or Tennessee state government
 - ✓ United States Military photo ID
 - ✓ Tennessee handgun carry permit with your photo

Exceptions to Photo IDs

- **IDs NOT acceptable**

- ✓ College student IDs

- ✓ IDs not issued by the federal government or by the State of Tennessee.

- Examples:

- County or city issued photo IDs

- Library cards

- Photo IDs issued by some state other than Tennessee

- **Situations where no ID is required**

- ✓ Voters who vote by mail (must vote in person the first time)

- ✓ Voters who are residents of a licensed nursing home or facility and vote at the facility

- ✓ Voters who are hospitalized

- ✓ Voters with a religious objection to being photographed

- ✓ Voters who sign a form at the poll stating they are indigent & unable to obtain a photo ID

Voting by Absentee Ballot

Must have an acceptable reason as determined by law.

Includes anyone over 60 years of age, student/spouse, job, health, and other special circumstances

Procedure

- ✓ Request a by-mail absentee ballot after the published date for doing so for an upcoming election.
- ✓ Download from <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/how-do-i-request-absentee-ballot> no earlier than 90 days before the election
- ✓ Mail-in ballot must be received by the Election Commission no later than 7 days before the election. It may NOT be hand-delivered.

Important: Volunteers should NOT conduct absentee voting drives!

LWVKC volunteers ONLY provide information contained in Voter Kits

Common Confusions

- In primary elections, voters must claim affiliation with one party and receive ballot only for candidates of that party (plus other nonpartisan items)
- In general elections, voters receive ballots listing party and independent candidates and other items
- Early voting has many advantages
 - ✓ ensures most problems resolved before election day
 - ✓ Provides many locations for voter convenience
 - ✓ Avoids missed voting due to illness or emergencies
- **Nonpartisanship: While volunteering to register voters or at other LWV event: Take off your campaign hat! Do not share your political opinions!**

Helpful Apps/Websites

[GoVoteTN.com](https://www.govotetn.com) – website & app

Register online, find information about election dates, candidates, districts, and more

[Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) – website & app

Read Voter Guides, find your polling place and districts for offices

[knoxcounty.org/election/](https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/) – website

Find information about election dates, early voting locations and times, candidates, and more

[lwvknoxville.org/](https://www.lwvknoxville.org/) – website & Facebook

Learn much more about protecting voters' rights, encouraging citizens to vote, furthering fair elections, Voter Guides and candidate events



Thank you for helping make democracy work!